



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Smith et al.
Serial No: 09/976,389
Filed: October 12, 2001
For: LAUNCHER PLATFORM

Group: 3641
Examiner: Chambers, Troy
Docket No: RAY-120J

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
NOV 24 2003
GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 14, 2003.

Olga Kadish
Olga Kadish

RESPONSE

This Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003 in the subject application. In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.



41

364)

IANDIORIO & TESKA

Joseph S. Iandiorio
Kirk Teska
Jason D. Shanske
Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Roy J. Coleman
R. Stephen Rosenholm
David W. Poirier

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ATTORNEYS

260 BEAR HILL ROAD
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02451-1018

Tel: (781) 890-5678
Fax: (781) 890-1150
e-mail: admin@iandiorio.com
web: www.iandiorio.com

November 14, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

NOV 24 2003

GROUP 3600

SUBJECT: Applicant: Smith et al.
 Serial No: 09/976,389
 Filed: October 12, 2001
 For: LAUNCHER PLATFORM
 Examiner: Chambers, Troy
 Group: 3641
 Docket No: RAY-120J

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a RESPONSE in reply to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2003 in the subject application.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts at (781) 890-5678.

If any payment during prosecution is found to be incorrect, please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to my Deposit Account No. 09-0002. A copy of this letter is enclosed for use by the Finance Branch in the event that it is necessary to make any charge or credit to my deposit account.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 1.136(a)(3), the Office is hereby authorized to treat any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Also, any request

Commissioner for Patents
Page 2



or Petition for an Extension of Time notwithstanding an inadvertent reference in the Petition to a shorter period of time is to be treated as requesting the appropriate length of time.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the foregoing by returning the enclosed self-addressed postcard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "T. Thompkins".

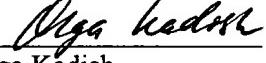
Thomas E. Thompkins, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,136

TET:ok
Enclosures

RECEIVED
NOV 24 2003
GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 14, 2003


Olga Kadish